

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SSO-00 AID-05 /061 W

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P 100707Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5078

INFO COMUSSAG NKP TH PRIORITY

CINCPAC HI PRIORITY

COMIPAC HI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4677

FOLLOWING BIEN HOA TEL SENT 10 APR 75 ACTION AMEMBASSY SAIGON;
INFO AMCONSUL CAN THO BEING REPEATED TO YOU:

CONFIDENTIAL BIEN HOA 291

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS VS

SUBJ: MILITARY SITUATION IN MR3

1. DURING A BRIEF MEETING AT 1100 HOURS, MR3 CHIEF OF STAFF BG TUONG REPORTED THAT THE MAIN CONCENTRATION OF MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THIS REGION CONTINUED IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE WITH FIGHTING CENTERED AROUND XUAN LOC CITY AND THE NEARBY JUNCTION OF ROUTES QL 1 AND QL 20. ALTHOUGH MINOR GROUND CONTACTS OCCURED IN LONG AN PROVINCE, THE MAIN ROUTE TO THE DELTA, QL 4, REMAINS SECURE. A LATE REPORT FROM AN AMERICAN SOURCE INDICATES THAT LONG AN PROVINCE'S CAPITAL OF TAN AN RECEIVED ROCKET FIRE ON APRIL 10 AT 1100 HOURS, RESULTING IN DESTRUCTION OF ONE FUEL STORAGE AREA. MINOR SHELLING OCCURRED IN TAY NINH PROVINCE WITH 20 ROUNDS OF 122MM ROCKETS IMPACTING IN THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL DURING THE MORNING OF APRIL 9 RESULTING IN ONE PERSON KILLED AND 13 WOUNDED. DURING THE MORNING OF APRIL 10, BIEN HOA AIR BASE RECEIVED THREE UNIDENTIFIED ROCKETS IN AN OPEN AREA, RESULTING
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IN NO DAMAGE.

2. TUONG SAID THAT SHELLING CONTINUED IN XUAN LOC THROUGHOUT THE MORNING OF APRIL 10 (ACCORDING TO MR3 TOC AN ESTIMATED 1,000 ROUNDS IMPACTED). THE NVA ARE REPORTEDLY UTILIZING 85MM, 100MM, 105MM, AND 130 MM (UNCONFIRMED) AS WELL AS ROCKETS AGAINST THE CITY. ON APRIL 9 TWO PRISONERS WERE CAPTURED FROM THE 266TH REGT, 341ST NVA DIV, AND TUONG PRESENTLY ESTIMATES THAT THE ENTIRE 7TH NVA DIV SUPPORTED BY TWO REGTS OF THE 6TH NVA DIV AND TWO REGTS OF THE 341ST NVA DIV ARE OPERATING IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE. THE 322ND ARMORED TASK FORCE HAS MOVED IN THE QL 1 AREA WEST OF XUAN LOC AND IS SUPPORTING ELEMENTS OF THE 18TH ARVN DIV AND REGIONAL FORCES. AN ARVN AIRBORNE BRIGADE HAS REACHED TRANG BOM HAMLET ON QL 1 IN BIEN HOA NEAR THE LONG KHANH BORDER WHERE IT WILL ESTABLISH ITS COMMAND POST. TUONG FELT THAT THE SITUATION IN XUAN LOC HAD STABILIZED AND THAT ARVN FORCES DEPLOYED IN THE AREA COULD HOLD THE COMMUNIST FORCES THAT ARE PRESENTLY COMMITTED TO THE ATTACK.

PETERS
MARTIN

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NNN

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